



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 23 2012

OFFICE OF  
SOLID WASTE AND  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Lisa Caldwell  
1390 Rachel Lane  
Tallahassee FL 2308-7710

Dear Lisa Caldwell;

Thank you for your January 30, 2012 email letter to US EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. You requested that EPA create regulations for dispersants that protect communities, response workers and the environment. I am pleased to respond on her behalf.

Regulations governing toxicity and efficacy testing, listing and use of dispersants are already in place in Subpart J of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (NCP). However, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is in the process of revising these requirements. We are evaluating new toxicity tests and listing criteria, chemical component disclosure, and the requirements governing appropriate use of dispersants on oil spills. The rulemaking process takes time not only to investigate the science and technical issues such as those you raised in your letter but to use that science to inform the policies used to revise the regulation. EPA expects to publish the proposed revisions to Subpart J for public review and comment Summer 2012.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have any questions about the Subpart J rulemaking, you are welcome to contact Craig Matthiessen, Director of OEM's Regulation and Policy Development Division at 202-564-8016.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "L. Stanton", is written over a horizontal line.

Lawrence M. Stanton, Director  
Office of Emergency Management